Participant Information Sheet

# **Research project title**

A permissioned (Hybrid) blockchain prototype facilitating banking record interoperability.

## **Invitation**

You are invited to take part in this research study. You have been chosen to partake in this study due to your unique experience in an industry that is relevant to the context of the research. Please make sure that you read all of the following information about the research, and feel free to contact the researcher with any questions you may have.

## **What is the purpose of the research?**

The purpose of the research project is to fulfil the learning outcomes of an MSc Computer Science Dissertation. Furthermore, the research is attempting to explore a gap in knowledge about the application of blockchain technology in baking record interoperability. The study will explore how departments within a bank can interoperate with client data stored in a decentralised manner within a blockchain ecosystem. The use of blockchain technology will ensure that all data is up to date, and changes made to the data will be auditable due to the nature of a blockchain's immutable records.

## **Where and when will the research take place?**

Throughout the project's development phase, you will be required to partake in a series of interviews that will include manual testing of a graphical user interface of a blockchain application. There will be two interviews, one hour in length via Zoom week commencing 27 June.

## **What will I have to do?**

You will participate in a Zoom meeting with the researcher, where you will be asked a series of questions while engaging with an application's user interface. During this time, you will be required to share your screen and consent to the meeting recording so that the researcher can refer back to your responses throughout the interview.

## **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Blockchain technology continues to see high levels of adoption in various industries throughout the world. Participating in this study will provide you with a unique opportunity to engage with blockchain technology and its applications in unique use cases like the one outlined in this study.

## **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

As this study will require you to be involved in interviews that are one hour in length, these will likely take place in a period that is outside of your usual work hours; as a result, you will have a busier than usual schedule during this time.

## **Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. Please contact the researcher if you wish to withdraw from the study using the contact details below. All data gathered from you will be destroyed per the GDPR directives' right to erasure clause.

## **How will my personal data be kept confidential?**

Data will be collected from you throughout the study in the form of emails (Word Documents) and Zoom recordings. All personally identifiable information will be securely stored on a password-protected Google Drive with Two Factor Authentication enabled. The research project is supervised by two supervisors from the University of Essex, and they too will have access to this data. All data collected will be used within the study to draw various conclusions about the research outcomes; however, you will remain anonymous throughout said conclusions. Finally, all stored data will only be stored for a period necessary to complete the dissertation; all data will be purged once complete.

## **Will I receive payment for taking part?**

You will not receive any payment for taking part in the research study.

## **What will happen if I do not want to continue with the study?**

If you decide to withdraw from the study, please notify the researcher at your nearest convenience using the contact details provided at the end of this document. All data collected to date will be destroyed in accordance with the GDPR directive.

## **Who has ethically reviewed the project?**

This research project has been ethically reviewed by both the supervisors who are overseeing this project, in addition to the supervisors, the head of the department reviews all projects quarterly.

## **What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The results of this project and the final dissertation will be made available at the following URL: [anrichp/Dissertation (github.com)](https://github.com/anrichp/Dissertation)

## **Further information and contact details**

### **Researcher Contact Details**

Name: Anrich Potgieter

Email Address: [anrichp@gmail.com](mailto:anrichp@gmail.com)

#### Supervisor contact details

Name: Dr Imtiaz Kahn

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.